

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS25969

This legislation establishes a Children and Families Legal Services Fund in the state treasury to be administered by appropriation to and disbursed by the Supreme Court. It may be funded with funds as may be appropriated by the legislature, as well as grants, donations, and money's from other sources. The funds will assist Idaho Legal Aid Services (ILAS) to continue providing legal representation for indigent persons in specified civil matters involving domestic violence, abused and neglected children, elder care and exploitation. ILAS is a non-profit law firm funded by a federal fund grant through the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) plus other smaller grants. Currently, Idaho is one of only 3 states in the nation that does not provide some form of supplemental funding for low income civil legal services. ILAS provides critical legal services to vulnerable Idahoans of limited means. Federal legal aid funds have been significantly reduced, endangering the continued existence of this resource for low income citizens.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the General Fund, any other state fund or local governments. There is no fiscal impact because the legislation does not require the expenditure of any funds.

Contact:

Brody Aston
(208) 724-5273

DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).